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Meeting Minutes 05/08/2006

Arlington Arts Council
Minutes of May 8th, 2006
Jefferson Cutter House
Arlington, MA

Present: Elinore Kagan, Karen Dillon, Tom Formicola, Michele Meagher, Jean Yoder, Mary Babic and Betsy Campbell Absent: Amy Peters, Margaret Ryding, Leland Stein Guests: Roz Cummings, Sharon Shaloo

Tom Formicola called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. (we had difficulty getting access to the Jefferson Cutter House)

ITEM 1: A Review of April Meeting Minutes

Council members reviewed the April meeting minutes. Tom moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Michele seconded and all approved.

ITEM 2: RFP's (request for payment)

1) 2005-12 Nikki Hu-RESPECT \$ 2,000

The final report was wonderfully presented in a comprehensive book and detailed report. The council members were very impressed with the final report. Elinore moved to approve, Betsy seconded- all approved.

It was noted by a council member that we don't have a detailed spreadsheet accounting for all of the 2006 grant recipients. Elinore has done this spreadsheet in years past and has agreed to put one together for 2006.

ITEM 3: Council Officers and volunteers

Amy Peters and Mary Babic are cycling off the council.

Tom asked if any of the members are interested in co-chairing the council. He is willing to single handedly chair the group but is also happy to share the role. No council members expressed an interest so Tom will continue on to chair alone.

We reviewed our council list and council roles and responsibilities from the green book.

Town Day Coordinator Needed: Loosing Amy means we also are loosing an effective town day coordinator. We think we need to preserve a

coordinator position perhaps a new volunteer? Karen will ask Amy for her spreadsheet and documentation so someone can take over for her.

We revisited the possibility of a website on TYPEPAD as Mary has recommended. Mary is still willing to set it up. It would cost only \$ 5.00 per month. Tom talked about how important it is for someone to take ownership of the website. Perhaps a new volunteer? Someone needs to be solely responsible for updates and maintenance. Perhaps a new category for a council member responsibility.

Marketing Manager-Is another important role we need to fill. Tom will talk to Leland who was originally assigned that role. Mary graciously offered to help him with the transition even though she will be an associate member. Roz Cummings suggested we contact the town webmaster and get a link on the town website. Karen will do this.

ITEM 4: Other Business

The subject of Public Art was brought up. Karen is initiating a Mural Arts program here in Arlington based on the program she recently viewed in Philadelphia. Karen has teamed with muralist and sign painter Tricia O'Neill. They have identified one site on Arlington center and are working to find two more mural sites. One in the heights and one in East Arlington.

Karen noticed while seeking art to include in her Arlington Art hunt that there is not too much contemporary art here in town. Most of the art is from the late 1800's. Arlington really is lacking in public art especially contemporary public art and contemporary murals. There has been wide spread complaints in town about graffiti. Although a mural arts program is not intended to combat graffiti quite often the graffiti subsides in the presence of murals.

Michele will talk to Kevin O'Brien about the council promoting a charter to increase public art.

Jean suggested tapping in to local govt. to network and find out what we can do.

Karen is meeting with town officials and the graffiti task force on May 26th. She will bring to the meeting that the arts community including the arts council join forces to try and beautify the town and also combat graffiti.

Betsy advised that we have a public forum to determine what the public thinks. Is this a priority to them?

Tom suggested that we map out a plan for our priorities for the coming year at our June meeting.

Abby Subak: The council reviewed the resume of council applicant Abby Subak. We were impressed with her credentials and experience and think she will be a wonderful fit on the council. Tom moved to vote in Abby. A vote was taken to consider Abby as a new council member and the council voted favorably unanimously. Welcome Abby!

We talked about moving our meeting location. Karen looked into the library and found the upstairs meeting rooms available the second Monday of the Month starting in July.

Council members are asked to bring their calendars to our June meeting.

Mary Babic: We are saddened that the term for council member and co-chair Mary Babic has expired. Mary has remained committed and active in the council for two terms despite some very challenging outside circumstances. We have asked Mary to please come to our June meeting so we can bid her a proper farewell and ask her to become a valued associate council member. Her knowledge and guidance are deeply appreciated and something we will rely on to guide us in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Dillon

Karen has reserved the conference room in the Jefferson Cutter house for the following upcoming meetings :

Monday, June 5th 7:30-9 Jefferson Cutter House

And the Robbins Library upstairs meeting room:

Monday, July 10th 7:30-8:45 Robbins Library Upstairs meeting room

Monday August 14th 7:30-8:45 Robbins Library Upstairs meeting room

Monday, September 11th 7:30-8:45 Robbins Library Upstairs meeting room

Monday, October 16th 7:30-8:45 Robbins Library Upstairs meeting room

Monday November 13th 7:30-8:45 Robbins Library Upstairs meeting room

Please reserve these dates on your calendar.